

BRIEFS

CHROMECAST, APPLE TV RANKED SAFEST BY PTC

LOS ANGELES (BP) — Among popular video entertainment services, Google Chromecast and Apple TV provide the safest viewing options for children and their parents, the Parents Television Council (PTC) concluded from their latest research. In addition to Google Chromecast and Apple TV, PTC studied Amazon Fire TV, Roku, Amazon Prime, Hulu, and Netflix. Google Chromecast received the only "A" rating of any of the services studied. The full study, *Over-the-Top or a Race to the Bottom: A Parent's Guide to Streaming Video*, is available at parentstv.org.

11 KILLED IN ATTACK ON NIGERIA CHURCH

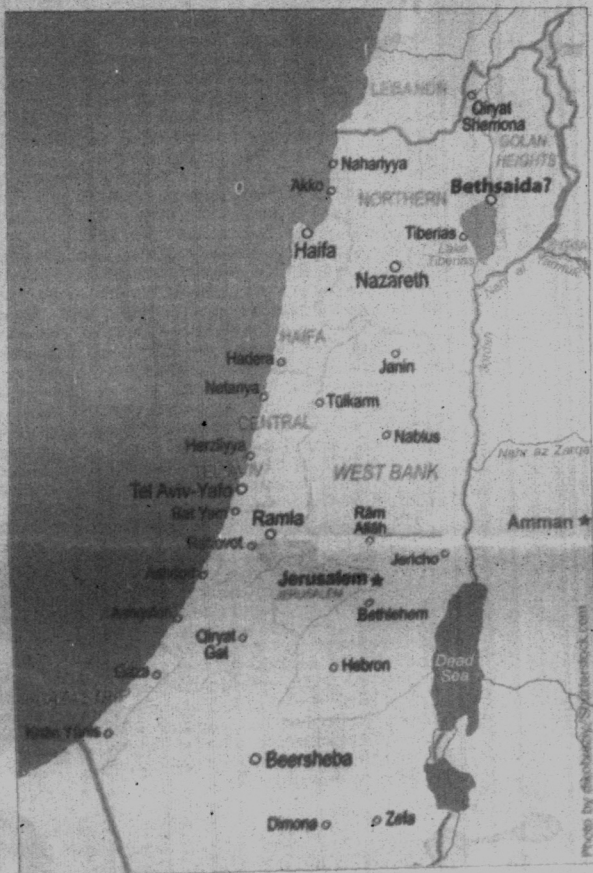
JOS, Nigeria (BP) — At least 11 people were killed and about 18 others injured in an Aug. 6 shooting at St. Philip's Catholic Church in Amakwa Ozobulu, near Onitsha of Ekwusigbo Local Government Area in tiny Anambra state. Police Commissioner Garbe Umar said the shooting was carried out by locals but was the result of conflict between rival gangs associated with two Nigerian siblings now living in South Africa. Christians make up 51.3% of Nigeria's population, while Muslims account for 45%. Nigeria ranks 12th on Open Doors' World Watch List of countries where Christians suffer the most persecution.

TEXAS BAPTISTS SEEK HELP AT 2018 MEETING

DALLAS (BP) — Dallas will host the 2018 annual meeting of Southern Baptists and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) is extending an invitation for churches to bring mission teams as well as messengers. More than 28 million people in the state are in need of the gospel, and the SBTC is seeking to reach 15 million to 40 million people living in Texas. SBTC President Cary Summers said that the convention is designed to encourage public engagement

Apostles' hometown discovered?

Biblical town Bethsaida tentatively identified in recent archaeological dig



EL-ARAJ, Israel (BP) — Archaeologists believe they may have solved a mystery — the location of Bethsaida, the biblical town that was home to Apostles Peter, Andrew, and Philip.

In addition to its identification as the hometown of three apostles (John 1:44), Bethsaida is mentioned in Scripture as the site Jesus healed a blind man (Mark 8:22) and fed the 5,000 (Luke 9:10). Southern Baptist archaeologists not involved in the project said pinpointing Bethsaida may shed light on the biblical text, but should not be viewed as a catalyst for developing faith in Jesus Christ.

"Archaeology is only a tool that can develop significant insights into the biblical world," said Daniel Warner, associate professor of Old Testament and archaeology at New Orleans Seminary.

"Don't look to archaeology to build up one's faith, for only the Bible can accomplish this... Romans states, 'faith co-

meth by hearing and hearing by the word of God' (10:17), not archaeology or any other outside source."

On the other hand, Warner said, "If archaeology can confirm this is Bethsaida and the Bible says the Apostles were there, why would we doubt it?"



The key to tentatively identifying el-Araj, a site on the Sea of Galilee's northern shore, with the ancient fishing village of Bethsaida is a Roman bathhouse unearthed by researchers this summer, Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported Aug. 8. The bathhouse dates from the first to third centuries and confirms the presence of a major Roman city during that period, according to Haaretz.

That's significant because the first-century Jewish historian Josephus wrote in his work titled *Jewish Antiquities* that Philip the Tetrarch "advanced the village Bethsaida... unto the dignity of a city, both by the number of inhabitants

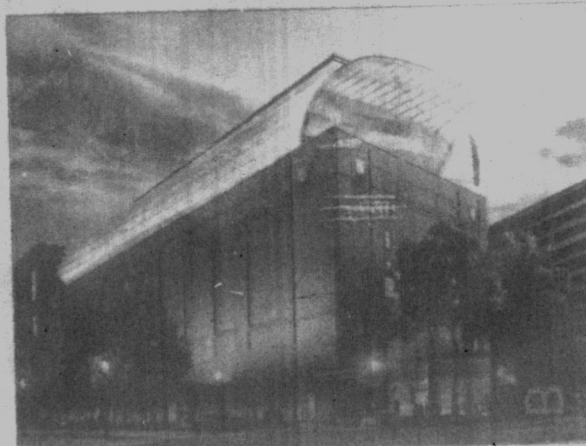
see BETHSAIDA on p. 6

Bible museum to offer free admission

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Museum of the Bible, slated to open November 17 in Washington, D.C., will offer free admission while reserving special perks for members, the museum announced Aug. 11.

The museum, founded by Hobby Lobby President Steve Green and family, joins the ranks of such notable venues as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and American Museum of Natural History in suggesting a donation in lieu of an admission fee, in this case \$15. Timed entry may be reserved online for guests and members.

Museum of the Bible President Cary Summers said the free admission is designed to encourage public engagement



see MUSEUM on p. 6

MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEP 16 2017

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Who are you, exactly?

Students returning to prestigious Princeton University in New Jersey for the fall semester will notice a revamped section among the registration paperwork they'll be required to complete. They have to declare their gender.

To those of us out here in fly-over country, that might seem to be a harmless exercise done on a routine basis since we left the hospital of our birth. After all, anyone smart enough to get into an Ivy League school like Princeton should be able to correctly select one of only two gender choices, right? Wrong.

Princeton students will be required to choose between six genders: Cisgender (corresponding to gender at birth), Genderqueer/ Gender non-conform (identifies with both male/female genders, or neither), Man (obvious), Other (far from obvious), Transgender (identifies with gender other than gender at birth), and Woman (again, obvious).

If you weren't aware of those six genders, you'll probably be equally surprised to know there are actually more genders available in the wider American culture of today. According to various Internet sources, those genders are: Agender/Genderless, Androgyne, Bigender, Non-binary, Gender Bender, Hijra, Pangender, Queer, Heterosexuality, Third Gender, Transmasculine, Transfeminine, Trigender, Two-Spirit.

In the interests of conserving space for the remainder of this commentary and other obvious reasons, those genders won't be defined here. You can look them up for yourself, but I wouldn't recommend it. There are probably more than just those few, since everyone in the U.S. is apparently entitled to force gender to accommodate them rather than the other way around.

Thus in this country today children as young as first grade can declare themselves to be one or more of those many genders (California), the constitutionally-guaranteed right of free speech is being curtailed (pick any Ivy League school), grown men are allowed in little girls' locker rooms

(Washington state) and permitted to wear outsized sex organ costumes in public parades (New York City), and sex reassignment surgery is underwritten by taxpayers (U.S. Armed Forces).

"Sexual identity has become almost the center of who you are as a person... You are defined by your sexuality whether it's sexual orientation or how you identify gender-wise, and I think that's why we're having such a difficult time actually discussing this," said Allie Stuckey, contributing blogger to the web site, The Conservative Millennial (theconservativemillennialblog.com), and a host on the web site, The Blaze (theblaze.com), in an Aug. 2 interview with Stuart Varney on the Fox Business Network cable channel.

"We should be having scientific, cultural discussions — compassionate discussions — about gender dysphoria, but we're not. We're accepting it as reality when it isn't reality. This should not be a primarily emotional, identity conversation," she said.

Bob Stith is founder of Family and Gender Issues Ministries in Southlake, Texas, and formerly served as the Southern Baptist Convention's national strategist for gender issues. "A truly compassionate society would seek to alleviate the detrimental effects of this confusion..." he wrote in a March 2016 commentary on Baptist Press.

For Christians, the overarching compassion we should feel for everyone living outside a right relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ, is to pry them from the jaws of the evil one, share with them the way to Jesus, and then serve as a living example of our Lord and Savior's love for them.

There is no exception included in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) for the personal distastefulness we may feel about someone's lifestyle or politics. Not one. Win them over to Jesus and let Him do the rest because He will, once He's in their hearts to stay.

Worked for me. Worked for you. It will work for them. Let's get busy.

Your new neighbors

An unprecedented 65 million people worldwide have been forced to flee their homes due to war, persecution, or natural disaster. More than 21 million have left their home country and sought refuge across international borders. In 2016, the United States resettled 84,995 of these refugees and many new arrivals will settle here this year.

Refugees are some of the most vulnerable people in the world. Not only have their lives been completely disrupted by violence and upheaval, they also endure miserable, mind-numbing conditions in refugee camps which are often little more than overcrowded, fenced-in tent cities. Because less than one percent of them are permitted to resettle in a third country each year, refugees can spend up to 17 years in these "temporary" facilities.

After years of living without many basic needs, the few refugees who finally have the opportunity to come to the United States arrive with nothing more than what they can carry. As the body of Christ, we have the gift and privilege of showing and sharing the love of Jesus with them.

In such passages as Deut. 10:18-19 and Lev. 19:33-34, the Lord's heart for the afflicted, the downcast, and the stranger is clear. He places a premium on our care for the disadvantaged (James 1:27). As peoples from across the globe resettle into our communities to start a new life, we need to clearly understand that this is an important moment (Luke 10:29-37).

Christ-followers and the local church must ask what we are doing to serve the refugees coming to our cities and neighborhoods. In fact, Jesus will one day ask us how we loved the hungry, the sick, and the stranger (Matthew 25:36).

We decide now how we will answer Him. You and your church can take practical steps toward being a blessing to newly arrived foreign neighbors:

■ **Be a good neighbor.** Work together with your small group or circle of friends to welcome refugees. Form a good neighbor team, a small group of people from a local church that partners with an evangelical resettlement agency such as World Relief to welcome newly arrived refugee families. The goal is for each refugee who arrives in the United States to feel the warm welcome of his or her local community.



Guest opinion
with Terry Sharp

■ **Help in the home.** There are many simple ways you can help refugee families settle into their new homes. Even learning to use everyday household appliances creates a learning curve for someone who has lived in refugee camps for years. Assist new refugee friends as they learn how to use the microwave, stove, washing machine, etc.

■ **Give welcome kits.** Remember how much gifts from wedding and baby showers meant to you when you were beginning a new stage of life? Refugees are starting a new life in America and gifts of household items, baby supplies, and furniture go a long way in assisting them (not to mention helping them feel welcomed and loved). These types of welcome kits can help you get started.

■ **Collect backpacks.** Any parent knows school supplies can be expensive. It is much more so for those entering a new culture. Have your church donate backpacks, notebooks, binders, and other items to help equip local refugee children with the items they need to be successful in the classroom. Collect and distribute them to families in as simple a manner as possible.

■ **Provide financial coaching.** Offer to help new arrivals set up bank accounts and establish budgets. Depending on their origins and their length of stay inside a refugee camp, newly arrived refugees may not have used a checking account or a bank card in years or may be unsure how to plan for monthly expenses.

■ **Tutor and teach.** Provide tutoring for children of refugees. These children start school immediately after arriving in the States and are in urgent need of help with homework and language. Adults may welcome lessons in conversational English as well.

see SHARP on p. 4

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Christians more likely to say no to gene manipulation

NASHVILLE (BP) — Christians are more likely than others to oppose embryonic gene editing to reduce the risk of disease in their babies, according to a Pew Research Center study conducted a year before the latest breakthrough in genetic engineering.

Sixty-five percent of respondents Pew described as "highly religious" would not want gene therapy for their babies, Pew found in the study conducted in March 2016. Conversely, only 36% of those considered least religious would reject such therapy for their offspring, Pew said.

Three-quarters of atheists and 67% of agnostics would accept the therapy.

The Pew study is receiving a second look after scientists successfully edited human genes to correct a potentially fatal heart defect in embryos created from donated eggs. The groundbreaking successful use of the CRISPR-Cas9 in human embryos opens the door to eventually protecting future generations from hereditary illnesses, according to research published in the Aug. 2 issue of the medical journal *Nature*.

Scientists already use gene editing technology in such areas as agriculture and drug development, *Sci-Tech Today* wrote in an Aug. 6 article but the first successful gene editing in human embryos renews ethical, moral, and safety concerns.

Scientists have also used CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing and cloning to advance the possibility of transplanting organs from pigs to humans, the journal *Science* reported Aug. 10. Harvard University geneticist George Church, who led the pig-to-human organ transplant experiments, said the first of such procedures could occur within two years.

Pew has conducted polls on the issue of embryonic gene editing since 2014. In its latest study, Pew polled respondents'

views on the potential use of gene editing to enhance people's health, particularly by reducing the probability of disease over a person's lifetime.

Pew polled respondents after presenting them with the following scenario:

New developments in genetics and gene-editing techniques are making it possible to treat some diseases and conditions by modifying a person's genes. In the future, gene-editing techniques could be used for any newborn, by changing the DNA of the embryo before it is born, and giving that baby a much reduced risk of serious diseases and conditions over his or her lifetime. Any changes to a baby's genetic makeup could be passed on to future generations if they later have children, and over the long term this could change the genetic characteristics of the population.

The general population of adults was about evenly divided on the use of gene editing in their children, Pew said, with 50% rejecting it and 48% choosing the procedure. The rejection rate rose to 59% when limited to parents of minors, but 53% of parents with no children under 18 were in favor of gene editing.

Results do not equal 100% in various categories because respondents who didn't answer are not listed.

Gene editing became less favorable for 54% of respondents if scientists used human embryos as test subjects in developing gene editing techniques, Pew found. For those with a high religious commitment, such testing was unacceptable to two-thirds of respondents.

In its research, Pew defined the highly religious as those who said religion was "very important" in their lives, and said they attended religious services weekly and prayed daily.

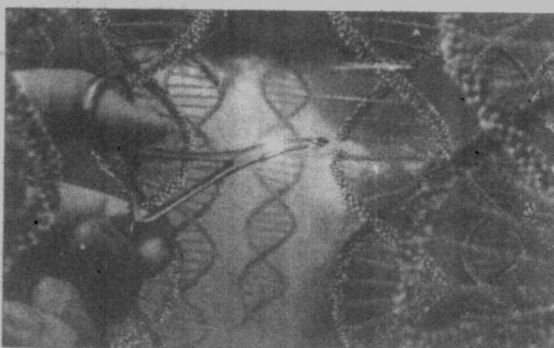


Photo by Natali_Mis/Shutterstock.com



COMPUTERIZED MUSIC — Darryl Ferrington, professor of music education at New Orleans Seminary, is studying how iPad apps can add additional instrumentation in the local church worship setting. He recently demonstrated the use of a bass guitar app in the school's Leavell Chapel (BP photo)

Music professor adds to church worship options

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — For churches with worship bands, finding and keeping enough trained musicians to play all the instruments can be a struggle, said Darryl Ferrington, music professor at New Orleans Seminary.

However, he's found the use of iPads and iPad apps to be a way to fill in the gaps.

Ferrington has spent the past year studying the use of iPads as instruments for his sabbatical project. What he found should serve as an encouragement to churches that struggle to find musicians to lead corporate worship.

Ferrington published his research findings at appsinworship.com, along with keyboard, guitar, bass, and drum app evaluations, and a detailed guide for implementing the concept in a local church.

Often presented as a novelty, numerous iPad performances have gone viral on social media in recent years. After seeing several novelty performances, Ferrington wondered if app-based instruments could help churches improve their Sunday morning corporate worship.

Mainly, the idea is geared toward small churches who perhaps have a good guitar player and a good keyboard player, but don't have a bass player or a drummer," Ferrington said. "They can pull up an iPad and use one of the recommended bass or drum apps until they develop a musician or pray one into the church."

As a professor teaching in a church music program, Ferrington remains deeply connected to local church worship ministries. He is convinced that

having someone play an iPad app is more desirable than using soundtracks, especially in a church trying to do contemporary worship.

The app-based instruments also provide individuals with an opportunity to serve the local church. Ferrington is convinced that better music and worship leadership encourages greater worship participation by the rest of the congregation.

"The goal is to get the congregation wholeheartedly singing their praises to God," he said. "Worship is a command from God. The better quality of musicians who are playing, the better the congregation will sing."

Ferrington tested his idea at Greta Covenant Church, a small congregation just across the Mississippi River from the music-oriented city of New Orleans.

While Ferrington is a skilled musician, he had no experience playing the bass guitar. The church already had a guitarist, drummer, and keyboard player, but Ferrington wanted to see how the addition of a bass guitar would improve the sound and ultimately, the worship experience.

After finding and purchasing a quality bass guitar app, he began playing bass on the iPad during worship. According to Ferrington, the concept worked in improving music quality and congregational worship participation.

"Our church is singing better because of the addition of the bass," he said.

When identifying people to play an iPad as an instrument in worship, Ferrington is not looking for a highly-skilled musician.

However, some basic music experience is helpful.

"I am not looking for someone who has an undergraduate degree in music or took piano for 12 years," Ferrington said. "I am looking for someone who took choir or band a few years in high school or someone who has a basic, rudimentary understanding of music."

Since the goal is ultimately about edifying the church, willingness goes a long way, Ferrington said. He also noted a good ear and some basic music training will help things go a lot farther, a lot faster, with less effort.

While Ferrington conceived the idea to "round out" the contemporary worship band at his small church, he believes it can help larger churches with traditional choral programs. Choir pieces often call for instruments that are not available in a particular church, Ferrington said.

Through iPad apps, a flute or trumpet part can be added to the piece even if a flutist or trumpet player is not available.

Ferrington acknowledges that many people will view iPads in worship as a novelty at first. "It is so radically different from what they have done before, people have the tendency to sit back and watch, wondering what is going on instead of being encouraged to participate more."

"The first time I played the bass on the iPad, it took a moment of explanation."

However, if the iPads are added gradually and with proper explanation, Ferrington believes the technology will eventually foster greater worship participation by the congregation.

Sin is found everywhere, not just throughout the Bible but everywhere. It is found at the first disobedience of Adam and Eve in taking of the tree that God told them to leave alone, to the latest disobedience in the voice of God to each of us. One of the words for sin means to miss the mark which might also refer to taking the wrong road. At other times, sin is represented in the Bible as the moral corruption that affects every one of us.

One thing about it: Whether people understand the theological implications of sin, sin is always creating a mess in our lives, homes, churches, world, government, activities, and sports. Wherever you see people, there will be a manifestation of sin from time to time. It is the garbage of our wrong relationships with God.

Recently I was at the Neshoba County Fair. As I sat visiting with some friends, which is one of the main activities at the Fair, a woman in the group began to talk about garbage — how it was made, handled, and disposed of. I thought for a moment the high August heat had gotten to her, but then after a few more sentences I realized that she was delving into a great spiritual truth. She was talking about garbage and using it for a metaphor for sin — the garbage of life. I began to realize what an important insight she was bringing to all of us. The fact is that all of us have participated in making sin garbage in our lives. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." That's me, and that's you. We all have made a mess at



Sin — the Garbage of Life

times, and we all have come in contact with the garbage that sin produces.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that each person in America makes about 4.4 pounds of garbage a day, or over 1,600 pounds a year. The question becomes, what in the world are you going to do with all that garbage? It has to be dealt with. For example, what happens to all that garbage generated at the Neshoba County Fair every year? Each cabin there is responsible for taking care of their own garbage and getting the garbage out to the pickup location near their cabin. The woman who was talking earlier about garbage made this insightful observation: Some folks use big black plastic bags to gather all of their garbage and carry it out, while other people use

clear plastic bags. When they carry those transparent bags to the pickup spot, everyone can clearly see all their garbage. That's why some of those folks keep their see-through garbage bags inside their cabins until it's time for the garbage truck to come by. They carry it out then, because otherwise everyone could see their garbage waiting for pickup.

An amazing thought came into focus for me, that oftentimes that's the way it is in life. Events happen in people's lives. They sin. They make sin garbage and everyone sees it and comments on it. On the other hand, many people just quietly go along producing their garbage. They're sinners, too, but they think they're keeping their garbage hidden well enough that nobody will ever know they have any.

Some people believe because they are aware of other people's sins but other people are not aware of theirs, they can feel better about themselves — a little more righteous, even self-righteous. Still, all have sinned and the garbage is still there. The wonderful thing is, there is provision from God to have our garbage picked up and disposed of. Jesus literally takes away all the sin garbage we create in our lives. He took all our trash upon Himself when He died on the cross. Today, He will still remove your sin and give you a clean heart. He will give you peace where there has been disturbance. He will give you purity where there has been corruption.

You can try to hide your garbage — conceal it in any kind of container you want or stick it over in the corner of your heart and just leave it there — but you'll find the outcome will not be good. Proverbs 28:13 says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." What a great truth about sin garbage. It can be dealt with, forgiven, removed — but not if we just keep it covered up. Get before God, carry out your garbage, and trust Him for He has made provision for you to have full and free forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Oh, will your life be different! Turn to Him today and find the rejoicing and release that comes because you no longer have to hide your sins when you take them to Jesus.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Townsend resigns WMU/WM for First Church, Jackson post

JACKSON (Special) — Cindy M. Townsend, having served for the past two years as executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union/Women's Ministries (WMU/WM) auxiliary to the Mississippi Baptist Convention, resigned effective Aug. 17 to lead the Woman's Mission Union/Women's Enrichment Ministries at First Church, Jackson.

Citing recent shoulder surgery, Townsend wrote in her resignation letter, "My surgery has underscored a need to adjust my pace and travel, and I believe the Lord is opening new doors to allow me to share my

"It has been a privilege to serve our Lord and the women of our state through the Mississippi Baptist Convention."

Cindy Townsend
director-treasurer of
Mississippi WMU/WM

love for missions and the work of the church with reduced travel responsibilities.

"It has been a privilege to serve our Lord and the women of our state through the Mississippi Baptist Convention. I

pray the Lord will continue to bless the work of the Convention and Mississippi WMU/Women's Ministries."

Townsend, who replaced the retiring Kay Cassibry, came to WMU/WM from Jackson Preparatory School in Flowood where she was serving as director of the school's Global Leadership Institute.

Her husband of 37 years, William R. "Bill" Townsend, is vice-president of institutional advancement and legal counsel to the president at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton. They reside in Flowood and are the parents of two adult children.

SHARP

cont. from p.2

■ **Take them shopping.** All the retail options — grocery stores, department stores, drug stores — can be overwhelming to someone arriving from a refugee camp. Show them around their new communities and explain the differences between these stores.

■ **Offer transportation.** Navigating without a car in most American cities can be very difficult, especially to newcomers. Offer rides to doctor appointments, job interviews, schools, stores, and banks until new

families can acquire cars or learn the ins-and-outs of public transportation in their new cities.

■ **Create an urban garden.** Does your church or community have unused green space? Consider providing a garden area where refugees can grow their own vegetables. Those who come from agrarian societies may be eager for an extra way to provide for their families.

■ **Learn more.** Familiarize yourself with local resettlement agencies that can teach you about incoming refugee groups and provide specific volunteer opportunities. Seek out further training that will

teach you and fellow church members strategic ways to share the Gospel message and to advocate for the needs of refugees in your community.

Let's engage this moment well, so that the first friends refugees make in our communities will be those who can demonstrate and speak the message of Jesus.

Sharp is state, association, and diaspora network leader for the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va. This commentary first appeared at imb.org, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style.

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GUM SPRINGS CHURCH, BRAXTON, MISSISSIPPI SEEKS PIANIST to serve during Sunday morning and evening worship, and Sunday morning choir practice. Please submit resume to the Pianist Search Committee c/o Music Director, 121 Victoria Pl., Brantford, Mississippi 39042, or email to jmanderson1575@gmail.com

STEPPING STONE CHURCH IN PORT GIBSON IS SEEKING A PART TIME BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resumes to: Ronnie Hymn in care of Stepping Stone Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1061, Port Gibson, MS 39150.

BIG LEVEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN WIGGINS, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR. Resumes may be emailed to sennett@albrittonaccounting.com or mailed to Big Level Baptist Church Attn: Search Committee 1348 City Bridge Rd. Wiggins, MS 39577.

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH IN LIBERTY, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A MINISTER OF MUSIC AND A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Resumes may be sent to Liberty Baptist Church, c/o Bradley Geno, PO Box 73, Liberty, MS 39645 or emailed to bgeno@libertybaptistchurch.biz

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 17, 2017

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

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for professional, volunteer, chaplains, and all interested persons

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Contact Deanna Vail in the MBCB Men's Ministry Dept. at 601-292-3335 or dvail@mbcb.org for more information.
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Speaker

MINISTRY WIVES CONFERENCE
FBC Jackson • October 30, 2017

For more information, contact Vesta Clay
601-292-3305 or vcclay@mbcb.org



Mississippi WMU Annual Meeting

First Baptist Church Jackson

October 30, 2017

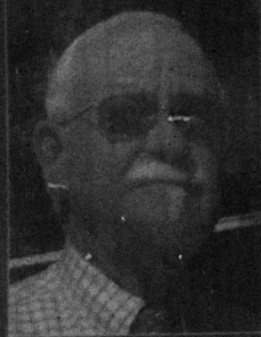
12:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Chapel

~~~~~

Guest Speaker: Sandy Wisdom-Martin  
"New" Executive Director for National WMU

Worship Leader: Teresa Harmening

Special Guests: IMB Representatives



When the scheduled revival arrived, we were very impressed with the presentation of the Sunday School lesson. The worship hour was even more impressive with a biblically-based stewardship message. After the worship hour, a meal and fellowship time were conducted, which was very pragmatic and informative. Present and future possibilities for stewardship and giving were described and this was possibly the most eye-opening part of the day. I can wholeheartedly recommend the Stewardship Revival to any church, especially smaller churches in our convention.

Mike Smith  
Pastor  
Trinity Baptist Church, West Point

## ONE-DAY Stewardship REVIVAL

Encourage your church to develop a culture of generosity through faithful discipleship.

For a free brochure and more information please contact the Stewardship Cooperative Program Department at 601-292-3347 or [Heavell@mbcb.org](mailto:Heavell@mbcb.org)

# MISSISSIPPI



## BAPTISTS CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY

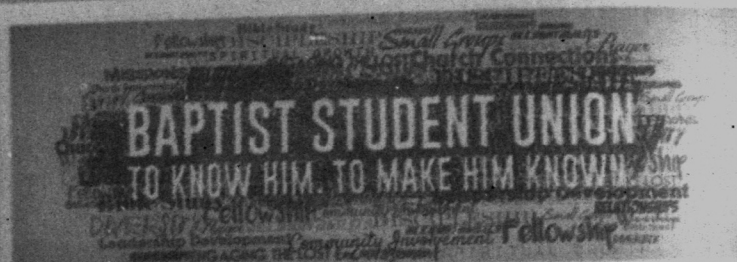
September 30, 2017  
Annual State Church Library Ministry Conference  
First Baptist Church, Summit, Mississippi

Learn how your church library can be like the  
CHRISTIANS IN ANTIOCH  
Impacting Culture Through Today's Church Library!  
(Acts II:26)

Conferences include: Equipping Teams for Ministry; Prevention and Repair; Dewey & Sears For Everyone; Importance of a Church Library in this Digital Age; Concourse Beginnings and Your Church History

Registration is open!  
Online registration: <http://tinyurl.com/2017CLMSummit>  
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: If you register before August 30, 2017, you will receive \$5 off your registration.

Contact Communications Services at 800-748-1601 ext. 113 or email [jeh@mbcb.org](mailto:jeh@mbcb.org) for more information.



## MISSISSIPPI BSU NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS AS THE SEMESTER BEGINS!

- Pray for our BSU staff — that as they share and teach, it will produce faith and obedience in the hearts of students.
- Pray that God will give our BSU Leadership Teams and Small Group Leaders caring hearts, prayerful spirits, and the ability to lead well.
- Pray that our returning BSUers will be active witnesses on their campuses and live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.
- Pray that God will be drawing students to Himself and that students and staff in our ministries will cross paths with those He is drawing. Pray that non-believers on our campuses would hear God's Word and believe it.
- Pray that the Father would raise up students this year to serve on short-term and long-term missions for the sake of the gospel throughout the U.S. and among the nations.

Contact Collegiate Ministry at 601-292-3299  
or [mhopper@mbcb.org](mailto:mhopper@mbcb.org) for more information

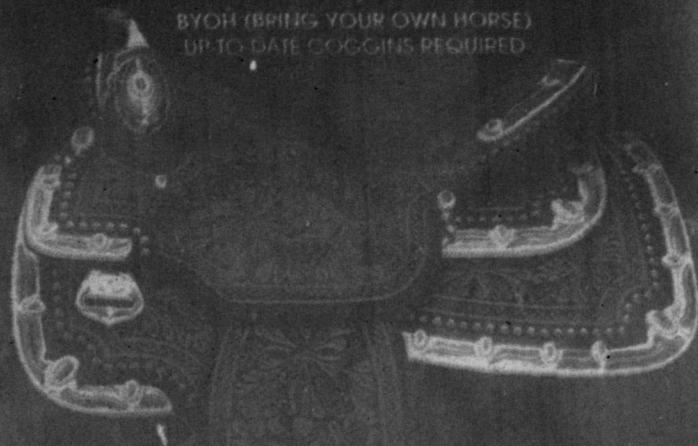
## 2017 FALL TRAIL RIDE

OCTOBER 13-14, 2017 | CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT  
6377 ATTALA ROAD 4227 | WEST MS 39192  
CALL 662-289-9730 FOR RESERVATIONS

COST \$45 PER PERSON  
(INCLUDES ROOM, OR RV HOOKUP, 3 MEALS & INSURANCE)

SATURDAY RIDERS' COST: \$20

BYOH (BRING YOUR OWN HORSE)  
UP-TO-DATE COGGINS REQUIRED



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT  
AT 601-292-3276 OR [EM@MBCB.ORG](mailto:EM@MBCB.ORG)





2017 Auditions for the  
2018 Mississippi Baptist  
All-State Youth Choir and  
Orchestra

Open to 9th-12th graders  
involved in the music  
ministry of MS Southern  
Baptist Churches  
**REGISTER 2 WEEKS PRIOR  
TO THE AUDITION.**

Saturday, September 16  
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
FBC, Columbia

Sunday, September 17  
1:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
FBC, Long Beach

Thursday, September 28  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
FBC, Meridian

Thursday, October 5  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Fairview BC, Columbus

Saturday, October 7  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Belden BC, Belden

Sunday, October 8  
1:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
Belden BC, Belden

Saturday, October 14  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Baptist Building, Jackson

Sunday, October 15  
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Baptist Building, Jackson

For necessary forms and audition  
information, contact the  
Church Music Department at  
cwtaylor@mbcb.org

## Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra Concert

North Greenwood Baptist Church  
August 20, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Church Music Department - 601.292.3267

TOGETHER FOR CHRIST  
PASTORS AND WORSHIP LEADERS  
2017 WORKSHOPS



**August 28, 2017**  
**FBC, Long Beach**  
**Time: 8:30 a.m. - noon**

**PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**  
Register online at  
[tinyurl.com/2017P-WLWorkshop](http://tinyurl.com/2017P-WLWorkshop)  
Contact Vesta Clary at 601-292-3305  
or [vclary@mbcb.org](mailto:vclary@mbcb.org) for more information

PASTOR/LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT

## MOVING BEYOND

A ONE DAY LEADERSHIP EVENT



WITH  
**JOHNNY HUNT**

**OCT. 3, 2017**

**BROADMOOR  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
MADISON, MS**

REGISTER TODAY  
[TINYURL.COM/HUNT2017](http://tinyurl.com/hunt2017)

## State Student Ministers' Retreat

**October 2-5, 2017 • Hilton Garden Inn • Orange Beach, AL**

**Speaker: Smokey Gibson, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Biloxi**

**Worship Leader: David Dees, Minister of College/Associate Minister of Students  
Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus**

Contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Dept. at [khall@mbcb.org](mailto:khall@mbcb.org) for more information

Pray this day for...

August 18 - August 31, 2017

*"praying at all times in the Spirit... To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."*  
Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Clarence Frank & Phoebe Harrison**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

Pray for: **Kenneth & Kimberly Hathcock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Earl & Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medicine & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Cynthia Hodgins**, missionary ministering to Deaf Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Jeffery & Liesa Holeman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Aaron & Tiffany Epps**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Shella Flowers**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through administration.

Pray for: **Millard Jones**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Susan Jones**, missionary ministering to East Asian Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert Mooney**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through Strategy Coordination.

Pray for: **Stephen & Svetlana Parish**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Ronald & Beverly Holmes**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Daniel & Claudia Hood**, missionaries ministering to North African & Middle Eastern Peoples through church planting & evangelism.



Miss Maggie  
10/01/04  
Parents: C & A  
Restricted

Miss Micah  
10/04/01  
Parents: Charlie & Shannon Worthy  
European Peoples

Miss Arianna  
10/08/97  
Parents: D & K  
European Peoples

To Be Sent September 22, 2017, by the WMU Office

**PLEASE NOTE THE TIMING:** Thank you for this love and support of MKs by sending Birthdays cards! Because of the sending to other countries, there is a need to get cards sent a month ahead of birthday. As soon as the list is in the Baptist Record, please send the cards and not wait until a couple of weeks before the date of the birthday. It is passed two months ahead to give time to receive cards and then to mail them a month ahead of time to insure arrival around birthday. Again, thank you for being a blessing to so many with this ministry!

**NOTE:** Church members may send a package of cards together, cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps which sent as a package to MS WMU.

**FOR SECURITY:** cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MRCB WMU MK Birthdays, P.O. Box 30, Jackson MS 39205.

Please include your return address on each card envelope, MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.

BAPTISTS



CELEBRATING THE  
SEASONS OF A LEADER'S LIFE

HOUSE TOPS



BROADMOOR  
BAPTIST CHURCH

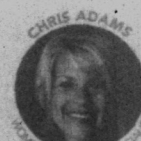
1531 HIGHLAND COLONY PARKWAY  
MADISON, MS

8:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.  
DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 A.M.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY  
LEADERS AND THEIR  
LEADERSHIP TEAMS

ASSOCIATIONAL WMU  
MISSIONS LEADERSHIP  
CHURCH MISSIONS  
LEADERSHIP

PLUS OTHER WOMEN WHO  
DESIRE TO BECOME MORE  
EFFECTIVE LEADERS



CHRIS ADAMS  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SPECIALIST



RITA SWEATT  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SPECIALIST



SHELLY JOHNSON  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SPECIALIST



DRU DILLEY  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SPECIALIST



GWEN WILLIAMS  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SPECIALIST



PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SPECIALIST

Sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention WMU/ Women's Ministries of Mississippi  
and Hosted by Women's Leadership in Central Mississippi!



# Funds for 'explicit' sex ed cut in Trump budget

**WASHINGTON (BP)** — Teen pregnancy prevention programs that advocate the use of contraceptives have been notified by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump that their federal funding will be cut by more than \$200 million annually.

Ascend, formerly the National Abstinence Education Association, lauded the cuts as appropriate given the "controversial and explicit" nature of some sex education programs used in public schools.

"The cuts signal a concern over programs that many parents and school administrators have found to be controversial and explicit," said Ascend executive director Mary Anne Mosack from the organization's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"These programs were held up as model programs for the country, but we found that in many regards they did not have the required body of research behind them to be considered model programs. It's not surprising to me that these cuts have taken place," she pointed out.

The cuts will not take full effect until next year, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

"On July 1, HHS awarded 81 continuations for Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program grant awards," an HHS spokesperson told Baptist Press (BP). "All of these grantees were given a project end date of June 30, 2018. The President's 2018 Budget eliminated funding for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, so our grants office informed the grantees of their June 30, 2018, end date, to give them an opportunity to adjust their programs and plan for an orderly closeout."

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program is an "evidence-based program that funds diverse organizations working to prevent teen pregnancy across the United States," according to the HHS website. At least some program initiatives seek to increase the frequency with which teens use contraception during sexual activity, the website stated.

Despite being the recipient of more than 90% of federal sex education funding, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program has not drastically decreased teen pregnancy, according to a report released by the American Journal of Public Health.

Some 80% of the time, participants in the program fared no better or worse than other teens in terms of preventing pregnancy, the report stated.

Teen pregnancy has declined steadily over the past 20 years, according to HHS, but America still has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates among developed countries.

Valerie Huber, chief of staff at the HHS Office of Adolescent Health, is the former president and CEO of Ascend and was a chief proponent of the HHS cuts, according to the Center for Investigative Reporting.

In an October op-ed for the Daily Caller, Huber highlighted the importance of teen sexual abstinence. "The healthiest message for youth is one that gives youth the skills and information to avoid the risks of teen sex, not merely reduce them," Huber wrote.

"This is the kind of message we give to youth when we encourage them not to smoke, to exercise more, and to avoid underage drinking," she observed.

Opponents of the HHS cuts say a lack of federal funding for contraceptive-based programs will increase the teen pregnancy rate.

Kelly Wilson, a health and kinesiology professor at Texas A&M University in College Station and lead researcher for its Innovative Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs project, told National Public Radio the cuts will "impact teens across the nation."

"I think that this entire cut to eliminate the evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs, to eliminate Title X Family Planning Programs definitely shows that there is a change in the atmosphere at multiple levels," Wilson said.



MOSACK



HUBER



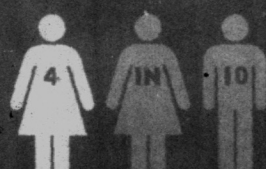
WILSON

New Survey

## TEENS SAY THEY FEEL PRESSURED TO HAVE SEX in most federally-funded sex ed programs

Currently 95% of all sex education funding goes toward programs that normalize teen sex. In a recent survey, teens say that contraceptive-focused sex education sends the message that they should have sex. They deserve a healthier message. Congress has it right when it places a priority in the 2016 budget on programs that give teens the skills to wait for sex.

### PRESSURE IN THE CLASSROOM



### BETWEEN DATING PARTNERS

Teens feel more pressure to have sex from this type of sex ed than from their girlfriends or boyfriends.

32%

MORE THAN 1 IN 5 TEENS SAY CLASSROOM CONDOM DEMONSTRATIONS MAKE THEM FEEL THAT SEX IS EXPECTED.

More than twice as many males as females think condom demonstrations send the message that sex is expected.

27%

The President's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program increases the pressure for sex. Congress is poised to give teens a healthier alternative within the 2016 budget. Teen survey results indicate that these changes are urgently needed.

Ascend

Survey by 2015 Teens Speak Out Survey. Research conducted by Harris Group.

"We absolutely need these kind of programs [and] there are still different populations that have high teen birth-rates that need to be impacted. Hispanic girls are still more likely to experience teen birth compared to their white counterparts."

Ascend will continue to advocate increased funding of sexual risk avoidance programs, which encourage teens to delay sexual activity, Mosak told BP.

"We certify over 1,000 different sexual risk avoidance educators across the country," Mosak said. "We want to continue to empower educators to understand what the sexual risk avoidance message is and to give them the skills and the research they need to effectively teach in the classroom."

"The ultimate goal is to get the message of avoiding sex to the student at the granular level."

# India authorities arrest Christian adults, children

**INDIA (BP)** — As persecution appears to be intensifying in India, government officials in the state of Madhya Pradesh have charged six Christians including some pastors with kidnapping and forced conversion while chaperoning children on the way to church camp.

Local police arrested the group in May along with more than 70 children en route to a summer Bible camp, according to International Christian Concern (ICC).

Local Hindu radicals told railway police the party of Christians was trafficking children for forced conversion, a

crime in that state. Police intervened, detaining everyone at a train station.

Authorities released most of the children after three days. All the parents confirmed in front of a local court they had willingly sent their children to the camp.

One child, 15-year-old Akash Gundia, was in juvenile detention until June 20 because police would not release him to his father, according to Morning Star News.

"I told the police I am a Christian by birth, and we are going to attend the VBS, but they did not listen to me and

took us to the police station," Akash said after his release.

Although false accusations are common, ICC's William Stark said the "forced conversion" charges surprised him. "It is somewhat atypical for them to be formally charged under the law," Stark said, noting charges are usually reduced.

One parent, Nana Singh, said his family has been Christian for five years. He told ICC the charges are meant "to pressure Christians and intimidate them to go back to the Hindu religion."

"Authorities have decided to ignore that fact [they are Christians]," Stark said.

The government argues that since the parents' national IDs label them Hindu, the children are Hindu, not Christian.

Stark said many low-caste Indians (Dalits) who convert to Christianity or Islam don't go through the government process to change their religion because they would lose government benefits for caste discrimination.

India's government gives "scheduled caste" benefits to Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh Dalits but denies benefits to Christians and Muslims even though discrimination

does not end with a change of religion.

Family members of the detained Christians told ICC the prisoners are subject to police beatings, insufficient food, and harassment by fellow prisoners.

ADE International denounced the persecution as part of India's "increasingly hostile climate towards religious minorities."

Used by permission of WORLD News Service, a division of WORLD Magazine ([worldmag.com](http://worldmag.com)) based in Asheville, N.C. Edited for style.

## BETHSAIDA

cont. from p. 1

it contained, and its other grandeur, and called it by the name of Julius" (18.28).

Archaeologists excavating el-Araj, led by project director Mordechai Aviam of Israel's Kinneret Institute for Galilean Archaeology, previously unearthed ruins of what appears to be a Byzantine church built in the fifth century, according to media reports. That find may align with the report of an eighth-century Bavarian bishop stating a church had been erected at Bethsaida over the purported site of Peter and Andrew's house.

Since the 19th century, scholars have identified two sites as potential locations of Bethsaida: el-Araj and a nearby site known as et-Tell. The latter, however, is thought by many archaeologists to be too far from the shore to have been a New Testament fishing village as Scripture describes Bethsaida.

Et-Tell also seems never to have been a significant Roman city, according to National Geographic.

Steve Andrews, professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at Midwestern Seminary, told Baptist Press, "After 30 years of excavation, et-Tell has produced little evidence that accurately fits the description of Bethsaida already known from the Bible and other ancient sources."

In contrast, Andrews said in written comments, "discoveries at el-Araj should encourage

believers in the study of the Gospel accounts. Obviously, our faith in Christ does not hang on the precise location of an ancient city, but the potential recovery of the actual site of Bethsaida reminds us that our Lord ministered in a real fishing village to real people.

"Even more important is that He called two of these fishermen [Peter and Andrew] to be fishers of men (Mark 1:16-18). As a result, the world will never be the same."

Warner also noted in his written comments that it's still very early in the two-year-old excavations at el-Araj "to make a definite identification but at this point, positive indicators archaeologists look for to even suggest they have a possible historical city are lining up well."

"To seal the deal that this is the actual city of Bethsaida or any other, one would need at best a written inscription from the site identifying it as such, like those found at Ekron and [New Orleans Seminary's] site of Gezer, but even without [an inscription], it's possible to build a good circumstantial case for a site."

"For the biblical believer, either way this site has the potential of opening a significant window illuminating the world of the first century, of when and where Jesus and many of His apostles lived. This is exciting."

Andrews, who has participated in 12 archaeological digs, agreed that future work at el-Araj has the potential to resolve the mystery of Bethsaida's location "once and for all."



AVIAM



ANDREWS

## MUSEUM

cont. from p. 1

with the Bible. "We can think of no more fundamental way to give people access to the treasures and experiences inside this museum than to offer public admission coupled with the ability to reserve timed-entry tickets."

Basic memberships beginning at \$60 for an individual and \$150 for families will allow unlimited early access, discounts in the museum gift shop, and other perks, according to the museum's website at [museumofthebible.org](http://museumofthebible.org).

Paid membership underwrites free admission, according to museum executive director Tony Zeiss. "Members make visitors possible, and each individual or family who commits annually will give people from around the world access to engage with the history, narrative, and impact of the Bible."

The 430,000-square-foot museum, just three blocks from the U.S. Capitol, will house the expansive Green Collection of rare biblical texts and artifacts, a performance hall, and exhibits designed to immerse visitors of all ages in interactive, biblically-based settings.

Smithsonian.com described the venue in January as one of nine "must-see" museums opening in 2017.

Members may begin reserving timed entry tickets now, in advance of the museum's fall opening. The online service will be available to guests beginning Aug. 28, at 10 a.m., the museum said.

Full membership descriptions and purchase options are available at [museumofthebible.org/join](http://museumofthebible.org/join).

## BIBL i O C I P H E R

RLH KDUHU CG ELKDCEB YLWUHUT,

KDNK GDNAAL ELK SU HUWUNAUT;

EUCKDUH DCT, KDNK GDNAAL ELK SU

IELME.

AJIU KMUAUWU: KML

Clue: M = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts 13:38

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)  
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).



## The Protector • Psalm 141

Somewhere in my memory, I am running full speed ahead (barefoot, dodging splinters) on a wooden front porch, bailing off the edge, landing safely in the outstretched arms of my waiting dad. Giggle. Rinse. Repeat. I never feared the leap because I knew that he would not let me hit the ground. The arms of any other person never worked for me. Full abandon was entrusted only to the one who never missed the catch. Worse case scenario: we might both take a tumble and land in a pile, but dad would still be the one between the ground and my grinning face.

Who do you run to? A major mark of maturity is acquisition of the knowledge of where to go when you are in trouble. In David's case, personal and spiritual rescue were anchored in relationship to his Heavenly Father. Psalm 140 and Psalm 141 are twin alarms of David for help in time of need. Both Psalms are addressed in the first person from David directly to the Lord. Both Psalms are cries to the Lord for protection against enemies. The location on the time line of David's life is un-revealed to us. We can only guess at the events surrounding his cry for deliverance.

Psalm 141 is described in the introductory notes as an evening prayer. Evening hours are precious to shepherds as the grueling, tiring grazing day has come to a close. Stars are bright. Sheepfolds are near

and sheep are bedding down for the night. Rest is imminent. The shepherd heart of David shows here. Evening hours also are scene of the last tabernacle sacrifice of the day. David's heart for worship is revealed in that possibility. His first tempting view of Bathsheba would happen in the evening. David's heart of human weakness would be manifested in adultery and murder and deception and finally confrontation and confession. In his dawning days, David battled

a giant named Goliath and a king named Saul. In his evening days, David wept over his failing kingdom and his wayward son, Absalom.

This Psalm is filled with "I" and "me" (David) and "You" and "Thee" (GOD). Line for line, a deep, personal relationship is evident between the speaker and The Listener. In verse 8, David addresses God as "Yahweh Adonai." David is saying, "You, God, the One True God, are my God and I place myself completely under the lordship of Your authority and protection." Wow.



### Explore the Bible with Becky Brown

That's huge. What a safe place to dwell! Even though the details of David's difficulty are not disclosed to us, his cry for help falls on the ears of a time-proven Ready and Able Rescuer.

David offers himself completely to the Lord.

My VOICE calls to Thee. That's confidence.

My PRAYER is offered as incense before Thee. That's worship.

My HANDS are lifted to Thee as the daily evening offering of myself. That's petition.

My MOUTH is guarded by Thee. That's honesty.

My LIPS must be watched by Thee. That's accountability.

My HEART is inclined (leans) toward Thee. That's love.

My HEAD gladly receives the "oil" of personal reproof from Thee. That's humility.

My PRAYER against wickedness is offered to Thee. That's reliance.

My WORDS are pleasant and offered for protection from my enemies. That's action.

My EYES are always toward Thee. That's faith.

My REFUGE is found only in Thee. That's trust.

As we flee from enemies that surround us, we call out for help TO God. We lift our prayers UNTO God. Our words are guarded and watched BY God. Our hearts must be inclined TOWARD God. We receive reproof FROM God or His designated emissaries, such as Nathan who came to David for confrontation of his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah, her husband. Our eyes must be focused ON God. Refuge is found only IN God. Whatever David's trouble, God was David's rescue.

Serving as staff mentor, worship leader and Bible Teacher at Judson Baptist Retreat Center in Louisiana has been my joy for the past sixteen summers. The forest there is filled with trails for walking and for horseback riding groups. For inspiration and meditation, we have placed scripture signposts at nearly every turn of the path. One sign reads, "The Lord is My Refuge." One young trail rider in line behind my horse read it this way, "The Lord is my RE-fudge... Hey, I knew God loved chocolate!" Friends of God find shelter IN Him. SWEET.

Brown is staff evangelist, First Church, Richland.

## A Passion to Share the Gospel • 2 Corinthians 5:9-11; 14-21

Home. As you read that one word, what images come to mind? The home you presently live in or perhaps the one where your children were small? Maybe you recall the sights, sounds and smells of the home where you grew up. Recently my eldest began his senior year of high school. During a recent conversation, I told him to enjoy this last year at home because he would spend the rest of his life trying to get back here.

Home is meant to be a haven of rest. A place where we are loved and welcomed at any time. This is the home we all strive to enjoy. Paul explains to the Corinthians that such an earthly home does not compare to what is in store for the believer. Our trust in Christ ensures that in a hundred years from this day the house we presently live in may be rotted but our eternal home will be just fine (5:1). That news is simply too good to keep to ourselves. Paul had no desire for the believers of Corinth to keep this information to themselves. The good news of that heavenly home is to be shared and there are many reasons why.

### Out of respect - 5:11

Agnosticism is a way of viewing the world without having to include God. The words means "no knowledge" in that an

agnostic is sure there is a higher power but they are not ready to admit it or acknowledge it. Paul says that believers cannot hold this worldview. He says "we know" (vs. 1 and vs. 11). We have a working knowledge of God and understand what it means to fear Him. To fear God is not to be afraid of Him but to show respect for Him and the respect that I have for my loving heavenly Father motivates me to desire to obey Him. Sharing His good news is way He expects me to obey.

### Out of Love - 5:14-17

Have you ever thought of how much God loves you? Hard to imagine loving someone that oftentimes acts so unlovable, but that is what God does: He loves. That love compels us to share the good news with others (14). This word compel in the strictest sense is equal to our word for channel. It may help to picture an electrical conduit running along the wall carrying electric wires from point A to point

B. To think that our great God would use us as conduits of His love is overwhelming which is indeed a "reasonable response" (Rom. 12:1) to that love.

### Out of Duty - 5:18-21

As believers we have a duty to share to gospel. Why? Paul says that our duty stems from our ambassadorship (20). We have been commissioned by God to represent His kingdom on earth. Just as our government

sends emissaries to foreign lands to speak for and act for the leadership of our nation, so too have we been given this duty by our King. His message is one of salvation

is intended for every ear on earth to hear. Our duty is to spread the word concerning the availability of reconciliation between sinful humanity and our King. (18-19)

### Live It Out

Paul began this section with thoughts of heavenly and earthly homes. The only

hope in reaching our heavenly home is through faith in Jesus alone. That is our gospel. For reconciliation to occur between a sinner and God there must be a bringing together, that is what the word means. God provided His Son (21) to take on our sin so that we could have right standing before Him. Paul closes this section out in a voice that seems to almost beg his readers to come to Jesus. (20b) Surely there is one in your family, church or realm of influence that needs to hear those same words from Paul: "Be reconciled to God." The world around us is bursting with people that God's ambassadors must implore to journey towards a home that is eternal, always welcoming and free to enter for all who seek Christ.

What name comes to mind when you think of home? Are those closest to you here joining you there in your eternal home? Ask your small group to join you in praying for those who need to hear and respond to the gospel. Attempt to perform the duty of an ambassador to the people you have prayed for and have a gospel conversation with them today.

Anthony is director of the Collaborative Missionary Network, Oxford/Holly Springs.

### Bible Studies for Life with Clay Anthony



## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Rolling Creek Church, Clarke County:** Homecoming, Aug. 20; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Billy Brumfield, guest speaker; Ronnie Cooper, pastor.

► **County Line Church, Overt:** Revival, Aug. 20 - 23; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.;

Keith Warden, speaker; Matt Martin, Senior Pastor.

► **Holcomb Church, Holcomb:** Revival, Aug. 20 - 23; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Brian Robertson, speaker.

► **Arkadelphia Church, Bailey:** Homecoming, Aug. 20; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by potluck meal; Mike

Russell, speaker.

► **Ephesus Church, Forest:** 130th anniversary and revival, Aug. 20 - 23; Sun., services at 10 a.m., followed by covered dish; Hack McMullen and Jim Everett, former pastors, speakers; Mark Jones, music; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Rusty Walton, speaker; Mark Jones, music.

► **Casey Creek Church, Baldwin:** 150th anniversary revival and homecoming; Aug. 18,

spaghetti supper, 6 p.m.; service, 7 p.m.; Chester Harrison, speaker. Aug. 19, youth night pizza blast, 6 p.m.; service, 7 p.m.; Don Lum, speaker. Aug. 20, homecoming service, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Steve Stone, speaker; The Servants Quartet, music.

► **Sunrise Church, Leake County:** Revival, Aug. 20 - 23; Sun., 11 a.m. worship followed by dinner on the grounds; Sun.

- Wed., 7 p.m.; Wayne Hudson, speaker; Randy Cuchens, music.

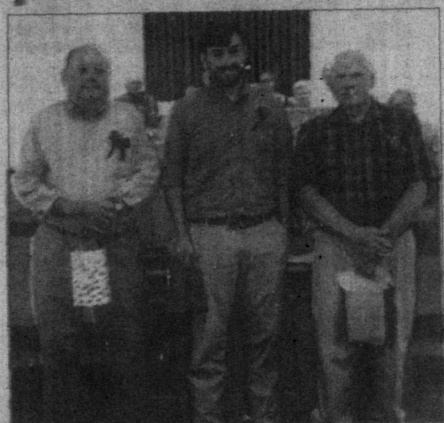
► **Oak Grove Church, Meridian:** Revival, Aug. 20 - 23, 6 p.m. nightly; Kara Blackard, speaker; Lee Robinson and Jerry Murphy, music.

► **Vardaman Church, Kemper County:** Homecoming, Sept. 8 services, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish meal; Josh Meadows, speaker; Jami Meadows and Brandon Jones & Family, music.

## Just for the Record



**BRANDON CHURCH, BRANDON,** recently broke ground on their new children's building.



**LIBERTY CHURCH, JEFFERSON,** honored fathers that were in attendance in June. Honored were C.D. Whitfield, oldest father; Kevin Harris, youngest father; and W.L. Dubard, father with most family members in attendance. Gary Tanner, pastor.



**MT. HOREB CHURCH, MERIDIAN,** recently ordained pastor Jim Hutchison to the gospel ministry. Presiding him with his ordination certificate is Jim Rickles and Greg Massey.



The youth of **FAIR RIVER CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN,** traveled to Arkansas for summer youth camp. Shown are some of the participants. Tim Johnson, youth pastor; Jay Anderson, pastor.

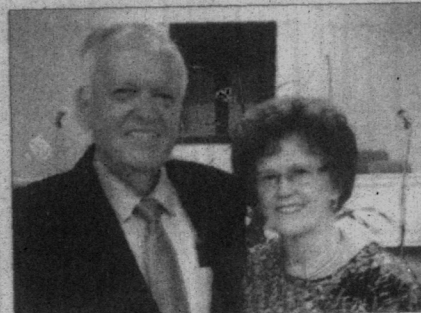


**GILLSBURG CHURCH, GILLSBURG'S** youth participated in MissionFuge 2017 in Charleston, South Carolina. Shown are the participants.

### In other Church News:

- **Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth,** is hosting The Hoppers in concert Aug. 27, 10 a.m.
- **Society Hill Church, Oakvale,** is hosting the Mississippi State Gospel Singing Convention Aug. 18 - 19. For more information, call Shannon Ford at (601) 408-4692.

## Staff Changes



**MT. OLIVET CHURCH, FOREST,** called Charles Ray Smith as pastor July 1. He is married to the former Bonita Herring and they reside in Forkville.

**CENTER TERRACE CHURCH, CANTON,** has called Alvin Doyle (left) as pastor, shown with Lowell Bryant, chair of the pastor search committee.



EQUIPPING PEOPLE  
**epic**  
IN CHURCH

**2017**

Sunday School/  
Small Groups Trainings

**AUG 26**

**First Baptist Church, Laurel**  
9 a.m. - noon

**Preschool:** Melita Thomas (LifeWay)

**Children:** Candace Powell (LifeWay)

**Students:** Kenny Stanteen (FBC Clinton)

**Adults:** David Apple (LifeWay)

Contact Sarah Lee in  
Sunday School/Small Groups at  
601-292-3291 or [slee@mbcb.org](mailto:slee@mbcb.org) for more info.